

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-10 and 17-22 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 17 and 18 are independent.

Amendments have been made to the Title, claims 11-16 have been canceled, claims 20-22 have been added, and claims 17-19 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 15, 2005 and September 27, 2005, and for providing Applicants with initialed copies of the PTO-1449 or PTO-SB08 forms filed therewith.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 11-14 from further consideration. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled non-elected claims 11-14. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to claims 11-14 at a later date if so desired.

Specification Objection

The Examiner has objected to the specification, stating that the title is non-descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title of the Invention to be more descriptive. Support can be found on page 1, paragraph of the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulsebosch et al. in view of Barzegar et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-16 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-10 are allowed and that claims 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. As set forth above, claims 17 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form, and should therefore be in condition for allowance. Also, claim 19 depends, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 18, and is therefore allowable based on its dependence from claim 18 which is believed to be allowable.

Claims 20-22

Claims 20-22 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants submit that claims 20-22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 17 and 18, and are

therefore allowable based on their dependence from claims 17 and 18 which are believed to be allowable.

In addition, claims 20-22 recite further limitations which are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art references.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By James T. Eller, Jr.
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